

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: These are not official minutes -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site following Board approval at the next meeting. If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted as a hybrid Zoom. SelectBoard members Rich Donaldson, Jon Collins, and Bronwen Tudor plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present. There were a total of 19 people attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2021 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- **SOLAR Working Group:** Members of the Solar Working Group came to the meeting to discuss progress. They had provided a 6 page summary in advance of the meeting. This discussion was extensive and included a lot of topics, some of which I didn't hear completely and/or didn't understand without the report. The following bullets summarize what I found most important in the discussion.
 - Kathy Gravino, chairperson, noted that the group has gathered a lot of information and they want to continue talking to potential providers and other towns undergoing similar analyses. She noted the working group wants Board approval to move ahead. She also noted that UNH Students are prepared to support data gathering and cost/benefit analysis. She also noted that David Fay can answer questions (if any) about the cost data already provided.
 - Rich Donaldson said he had read through the material provided but it doesn't answer 3 of the 4 questions originally asked by the Board. He noted that we don't know what might happen long-term with the school and that may impact the feasibility of some alternatives. For example, it's probably not a good idea to mount solar panels on the roof of the school. The proposed 20 year contract for the "net billing" alternative scares him. He asked, "Is there another way to save the same \$\$?" He also asked, "What are the life cycle impact of the panels (purchase thru disposal)?"
 - Jon Collins agreed that school "unknowns" are a big issue. The school consumes most of the Town electric power (KW hours).
 - Bronwen Tudor recommended that both school and sodium vapor street lights should be replaced with LEDs in order to reduce the electrical load. Then use the resulting load to determine necessary generating capacity. She noted that the school building will exist whether the school remains long-term or not so the potential for installing an array on the roof should be considered a possibility. She continues to question whether there is a better alternative than "net billing".
 - Nancy Kinner explained that the working group did not intentionally avoid the four Board questions. The working group looked at 16 potential providers and identified 6 or 7 that can do what we want. They plan to meet with potential suppliers and other towns with the goal of identifying the simplest, most cost effective solution. Nancy said she, and her students, can develop a cost/benefit analysis which will address initial cost of purchasing and installing the system plus O&M costs for a 20 year lifecycle. She indicated that the working group wants to make sure the Board is ok with the 5 or 6 alternatives going forward. Rich indicated that the Board already gave its approval when they established the working group. Nancy recommended that we not leave any of the alternatives out of the analysis, YET.
 - Susana Place pointed out that many towns are going through the same type of analyses and the technology is evolving rapidly. Now that we (working group) understand the basics, the working group is ready to move ahead. She also noted that potential providers are very busy right now and that will continue to slow the analysis. She expects a comprehensive comparison will probably take until next May. Nancy indicated that some preliminary analysis for a couple of alternatives might be complete by January.
 - Kathy asked if there were any legal aspects relating to the proposed long-term contracts. I did not hear any response to that question.

- Rich said that the current load is 10,400 KW and all but the school is just 2,500 KW. He recommended that the working group focus on short-term solutions. Bronwen pointed out that we do not know what the future holds. The proposed upgrades to the First Choice may well include heat pumps for heat and air conditioning. The school may need an upgrade of heating and the addition of air conditioning. We need to project future energy useage and include several alternatives in the cost/benefit analysis.
- Rich recommended that further discussion be tabled to the next meeting. The Board should look at the alternatives and identify if any should be deleted at this stage. The Board will provide specific questions and authority. Bronwen disagreed. She thinks the Board should give approval now (at this meeting). The Board voted 2-1 to table further discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Amanda reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website.

The most interesting item was:

- Georgetown Broadband LLC issued and update of construction progress and service. If you are interested in a copy, contact carlosjbarrionuevo@gmail.com.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Jon Collins questioned where the Board wants to place the State Speed Measuring System for the 10 days it will be available in Georgetown. Recommendations include near the Old Post Office, across from Mountain Cemetery, on Five Islands Road near the intersection with Robinhood Road (northbound).

OLD BUSINESS:

- Broadband: Amanda reported that she and Terry Taylor will be meeting with the Island Institute to discuss the “affordability fund” next steps.
- First Church: Amanda reported that the new steering committee has met and they will begin work looking for an engineering firm to provide a complete structural analysis of the building.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP): Amanda noted that she got the approval notice for Georgetown’s allotment which is \$112,903.28.
- Recreation Committee: A “brainstorming” meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4 at 4 pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Date & Time	Event	Place	Comment
Saturday, 10/23, 10-2	Drug Take Back Day	Central Fire Station	Hybrid Zoom

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 12 . The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. Contact Amanda Campbell or Alex Neese at the Town Office to get the Meeting ID and Password.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe